

suggested, the presence of "nutritive-yelk" particles is very probably a disturbing factor in the early stages of recapitulative development; and I hope by the application of this hypothesis that some further results of a definite kind may be attained.

Meanwhile I beg to assure Prof. Salensky and other doubters that the primitive endoderm does arise by invagination in the Mollusks cited by me, as there will, I hope, shortly be evidence to show in the form of careful drawings.

The drawings of Lovén of embryos of *Crenella* and *Cardium*, which *clearly* indicate a diploblastic phase brought about by invagination as I have followed it out in other Mollusks, are not in the least degree elucidated or touched by Prof. Salensky's figures of young *Ostrea* in the paper in the 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte.' There is no question whatever about the mouth: these stages are long antecedent to the formation of mouth or velum. The figures of Lovén to which I refer are those in which the "Richtungsbläschen" is seen escaping from the mass of cells, and in which an orifice is marked as the orifice at which the "Richtungsbläschen" escape. This orifice is, I am persuaded (by analogy with fully worked-out examples in other Mollusks), the orifice of invagination of the *Gastrula*-endoderm, and *not* connected with the "Richtungsbläschen" as Lovén supposed.

Let me, in conclusion, point out that the publication of figures to illustrate such observations as those which now have to be made, on embryological matters, is in this country a terribly lengthy and tedious affair, and that naturalists must have some patience and consideration for one another under the infliction.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Evenings at the Microscope; or Researches among the Minute Organs and Forms of Animal Life. By PHILIP HENRY GOSSE, F.R.S. A new edition. 8vo. London: Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, 1874.

THIS little book of Mr. Gosse's (a writer whom one is always pleased to meet in the field of natural history) is intended as a guide to those who, possessing a microscope, are desirous of using that instrument as a means of obtaining something more than mere passing amusement. It is founded for the most part upon his own observations, or at least upon observations practically verified by himself, a circumstance which gives it a very different character from that of most of the compilations which aim at popularizing natural history.

The author's plan is a very admirable one. Instead of going out of his way to describe and figure objects whose great interest is their rarity, he sticks almost throughout to those common forms

which are within the reach of almost every one, and while confining himself pretty strictly to the description of strictly microscopic objects, contrives at the same time to furnish a tolerable general sketch of the animal kingdom.

Of the vertebrates, of course, Mr. Gosse cannot speak as microscopic objects, but he describes the structure of hairs, feathers, and scales, and the characters presented by the blood of these animals. Had he gone a little further and noticed the structure and mode of formation of bones and teeth, and of some of the more important soft parts, he might have made this section of his work far more instructive. In the treatment of the invertebrate animals, Mr. Gosse arranges his subject in accordance with the generally received classification, devoting a chapter or more to each of the great groups or classes (which he notices separately), and describing in a clear and pleasant style all those parts in the investigation of which the use of the microscope is necessary. Not unnaturally the Rotifera, the Sea-Anemones, and some other groups, upon which Mr. Gosse has worked with results well known to all zoologists, come in for a favourite's share of his attention: but on the whole he has behaved with a commendable impartiality; and the student who works through the course of study here laid down by Mr. Gosse, will rise from his labour with no contemptible amount of zoological knowledge. We may add that the book is adorned with a considerable number of good wood-engravings, and, although published by the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge for the express purpose of indicating the wonders of the Divine handiwork in the animal world, is not disfigured by any undue obtrusion of the natural-theological element, such as we are but too much accustomed to in many books with a similar purpose.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Note on Ablepharus pusillus. By W. T. BLANFORD.

IN the description of the above-named species in the 'Annals' for July last, p. 33 of the present volume, a serious error occurs, the number of transverse rows of ventral scales between the axils being stated to be 26 instead of 36. The latter number is correct; and as the only important difference between *A. pusillus* and *A. Brandti*, Strauch, consists in the number of scales between the axils, which are fifty in the last named form, whilst *Blepharosteres agilis* of Stoliczka (Proc. As. Soc. Bengal, 1872, p. 126) has forty to forty-five, and appears from the description to agree in every other character of importance with the other two species, there is every probability that these three races must be considered varieties of one species, which will bear Strauch's name *A. Brandti*. The type of the latter is from Turkestan; Dr. Stoliczka's species is from the Punjab; and *A. pusillus* was procured by me close to Basrah, commonly called Bussorah, the port of Mesopotamia on the estuary of the united Tigris and Euphrates; so this scinque has a wide range in Asia.